

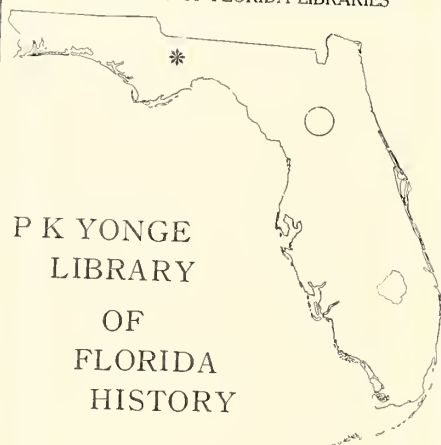
# Holy Trinity Church

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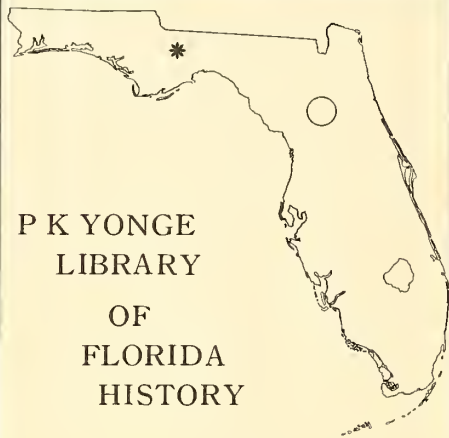
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*Holy Trinity Church--  
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Pictured above is the original Holy Trinity Church, built in 1873 and used by Holy Trinity Parish until the present structure was completed in 1907. When this picture was taken the Church was located at the present site of the Masonic Temple on North Main Street.

Does this Church Building still exist? Indeed it does. Old Holy Trinity Church is now known as St. Augustine's Mission. Still serviceable, and still carrying great memories for those still here who remember worshipping in that building.

The old building is now used as the mission for a few colored families in Gainesville. It is located in the colored section of the city.

Still living and active in Holy Trinity Church is one parishioner who remembers kneeling to pray in that old building in 1877—seventy-three years ago. Thus through the memories of Miss Nora Norton the history of the original Church is tied in to the present day.

## — FOREWORD —

This history of Holy Trinity Church from its early days to the present has been compiled and edited by Mr. Frank W. Pisani, the able Editor of Holy Trinity Herald. His enthusiasm and interest in the information contained herein, has sent him searching through the minutes of the Vestry of former years, numerous interviews with older members of the parish, much correspondence with former Rectors, and the priceless discovery of long hidden photographs. He deserves much credit for his thorough effort.

However complete this book may be to the mid-year of this twentieth century, the story of Holy Trinity Church is continuing to be written. This work sets forth the record of personal sacrifice, wise and inspired planning, and the consecrated efforts of the lives of those who have provided us with this tangible inheritance of beauty and inspiration. The fruits of their labors are being used and enjoyed by us today, and with the help and leadership of God, the record we are compiling in our own generation will continue to add to the Glory of God and to the benefit of future generations.

The appreciation of the Rector, the Vestry, and the members of the Holy Trinity Family is expressed to Mr. Pisani for this historical account of our parish.

Roscoe C. Hauser, Jr.  
Rector



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"Except the Lord build the house, their  
labor is but lost that build it."

—Psalm 127:1

## Acknowledgment

Writing a history—even a simple, factual account of the highlights—is a worrisome task. Not from the standpoint of the work involved, for indeed it is a fascinating experience to delve into the chronicles of the past and to piece together a great story, of a great institution. The worrisome portion of the job is to tell ALL THE STORY.

Perhaps the greatest single part of the telling of the Holy Trinity story lies in the revelation of the names of the men and women who, with God's help, made the story. The sound of some of these names has a triumphant ring. The Church itself is adorned with memorials to the Glory of God and in memory of these giants of the parish. It would be remiss indeed for the Chronicler to in any way dim the luster of these figures by making light of their accomplishments. But in fairness to all those whose names do not appear in the twelve chapters of the Holy Trinity Story may the Chronicler say this: the names the reader will see on pages of this work constitute only a fraction of those who should be mentioned. Indeed, every man, woman, and child who has knelt to pray in Holy Trinity Church must be considered an important part of the total picture.

Thanks are in order to the many people who have assisted in making this edition of "Holy Trinity Church—Its Story" possible. Again there is a risk in thanking by name for so many have helped. But to the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Hauser, Mrs. Edwin Smith, parish secretary, Mrs. Lucia Gibbs, and Mr. Joel Cocks, a special note of thanks. Thanks also to Mrs. J. A. Spruill for allowing those compiling this history the use of her brother's (the late Mr. Ben Richards) notes for the writing of chapters two and three.

Most of the history was taken from old vestry notes, publications, and

from conversations from people who have been on the scene for many years. No attempt has been made to make this an exhaustive work—yet it is hoped it will prove interesting.

As for the pictures. Space, financial considerations, and availability of photographs dictated the policy in regard to this aspect of the history. To reproduce the faces of all those who share in this great story would have been a physical impossibility. Once more all that is hoped for is a representative cross-section.

This history has been a year in the making. The finished product is now in your hands. Think as you read, and as you see the pictures of those who built and what they built, that this story is nearly 100 years old. And, think too, that this is but a tiny segment of what the story will be.

With God's help this humble beginning will provide the framework for greater and greater work in His name throughout the centuries that lie ahead.

—FWP



Two great figures in the Holy Trinity story, Dr. N. D. Phillips, left, and Colonel W. W. Hampton, right, are pictured at the building site as the present Church structure neared completion in 1906.

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# *Holy Trinity Church - Its Story*

## "In the Beginning"

### Chapter One

This is the story of a Church, and the people who, in serving God, have devoted much of themselves to the accomplishment of its mission. Old records and information are somewhat scant, and the vitally interesting detail is not as complete as we would like to have it. However, the story begins. . . .

The last rumbling echoes of the cannon had faded away. Blood-soaked fields, which for years had been the arena for mass fratricide, were deserted and still. Possibly because of a desire to escape living reminders of the terrible war that shook this infant nation, Gainesville, Florida received an influx of people from all over the south. Only its share, of course, but the growth during the years immediately following the Civil War is a matter of record.

Among the families that came to Gainesville at that time, were some that were members of the Episcopal Church. It wasn't long before Bishop Young of the Diocese of Florida recognized their need for spiritual care. The beginning was simple. The Rev. O. P. Thackhara, of Fernandina, came to this young community and ministered to the scattered souls who professed to the Episcopal faith. In the space of some three years Bishop Young and Mr. Thackhara organized the congregation, which grew rapidly, into a Parish. Captain Henry Dozier and Mr. James Chesnut were the first wardens.

In 1868 the Rev. B. F. Dunkin Perry became the first rector of "Trinity" Parish. Soon Mr. Perry and these enthusiastic people secured a piece of ground on which they were to build their Church. This location is where the Masonic Temple stands today. The struggle to build the Church was not easy, despite the fact that the rector and his congregation bent their efforts toward the completion of that dream. The first in a series of setbacks occurred when the Rector left Florida to return to his native South Carolina.

The Rev. William Doane Mitchell succeeded Mr. Perry. The building project was turned over to Mr. Mitchell, whose efforts were cut short by his death in 1872, only a few months after he became rector.

The honor and pleasure of seeing the Church building completed fell to the Rev. Edward W. Meany in 1873. That building, the first Episcopal Church in Gainesville, is still standing. Today it is known as the St. Augustine Mission, situated in the colored quarter of Gainesville. A few colored families have worshipped in that building for nearly fifty years.

During the period of Mr. Meany's rectorship, Miss Margaret Tebeau established a Diocesan School which bore her name. That same building is also standing today, and is known as the Tebeau Nursery School.

It was not until 1876 that payments on the building were completed. With the payments completed the Church was consecrated, April 22, 1877. It was then that "Trinity" Parish became Holy Trinity, the name it bears today. Rector at the time the Church was consecrated was the Rev. Charles A. Gilbert, who became Rector in 1876. However, between the rectorships of Mr. Meany and Mr. Gilbert, the Rev. Mr. Teek served as spiritual leader for the people of Trinity parish. Mr. Teek was a partial invalid and remained in charge only a short time.



The Rt. Rev. Edwin G. Weed, Bishop of the Diocese of Florida from 1886 to 1924. A great spiritual leader who guided the destinies of the relatively young Diocese during the latter years of the 19th and first quarter of the 20th centuries.



# Dawn of a Century 1878-1903

## Chapter Two

The fading years of the past century found Gainesville continuing the struggle for an orderly society out of the topsy-turvy of the reconstruction era. Times that try men's souls . . . growing pains of new development . . . again the tramp of marching feet—Cuba bound. Rarely has a revolution in a way of life so perfectly coincided with a century's end. Enter the horseless carriage and all its accoutrements. But often it is that in change men seek the proven solace of the unchangeable—the Church.

The history of Holy Trinity in those last years of the century reflect the growing numbers and energy of its parishioners. The growth of the church reached a climatic high towards the end of 1903 when concrete foundations for the church at its present site were poured.

The Rev. Edward W. Meany returned to Gainesville as rector of Holy Trinity Church in 1878. He found the church building he had seen completed, now debt free, and the four years of his ministry were richly productive in securing gifts, memorials and furnishings for the church—located where the present Masonic Temple stands.

The next dozen years saw a number of new rectors participating in the development of the church. The Rev. F. B. Dunham, the Rev. C. Stroh, the Rev. Joseph Ridley Gray, the Rev. Gouverneur Kruger, the Rev. W. S. Simpson Atmore, and the Rev. Andrew T. Sharp occupied the rectorship from 1882 to 1894. All served the parish for short terms with the exception of Mr. Dunham who left in 1888.

Mr. Dunham's ministry saw the erection of a rectory, located next to the old church and occupied by succeeding rectors until 1925. The first vested choir was organized and, before Mr. Dunham's departure, the Silver Communion service was added—gift of Mrs. A. M. C. Thomas.

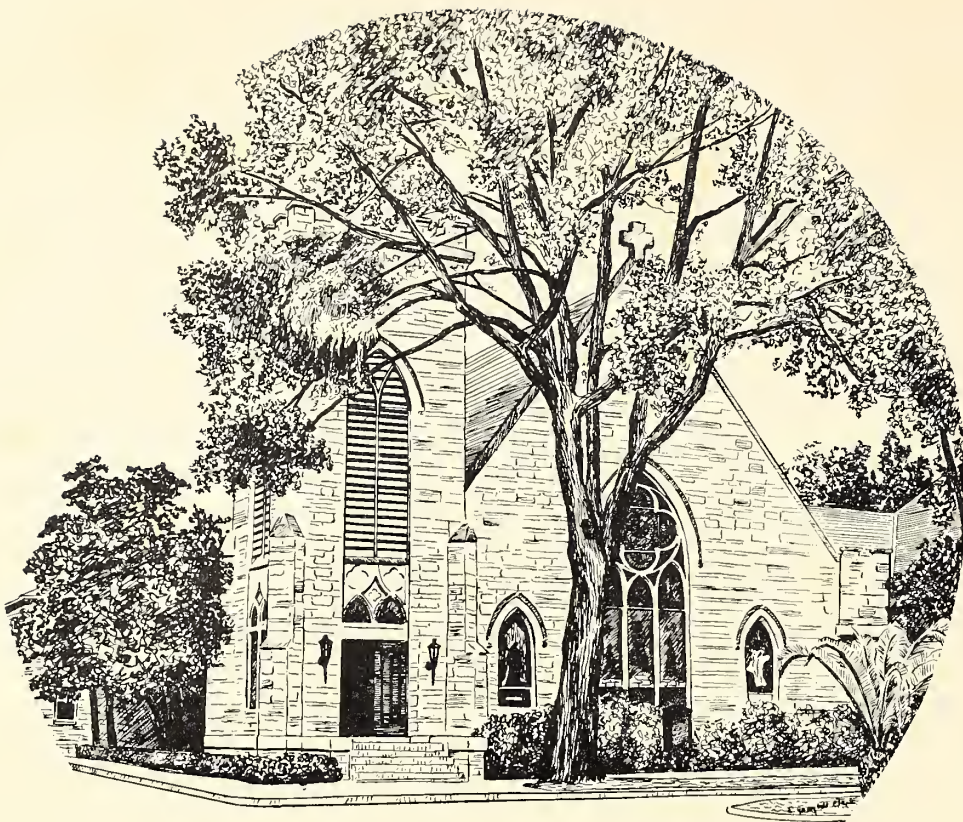
The big freeze of 1894-95, so devastating to the area, appeared to have little effect on the enthusiasm of parishioners. At that time the church was under the leadership of the Rev. Clarence C. Leman who served from December 1894 until January, 1901. The church grew to the extent that proposals were made to build a new and larger church. However action on these proposals was not taken until after the appointment of Mr. Leman's successor, the Rev. Benjamin F. Matrau, D. D.

Dr. Matrau became rector in May, 1901. On June 17, he called a parish meeting which found parishioners cooperative. They pledged \$6,000 towards the new church. The way to expansion was open, but it was the next rector who ordered the first steps, because Dr. Matrau died during the fall of the same year.

It was the Rev. John Gray, rector from 1901 until the end of 1903 who assumed the uncompleted task. On February 7, 1903 the lot at the corner of N.E. 1st Avenue and 1st Street was procured—site of present Holy Trinity Church. He initiated plans for the church building but ended his ministry at Holy Trinity late in 1903 just when foundations for the church began to show on the new location.

The Twentieth century dawned auspiciously for Holy Trinity Parish.





*Holy Trinity Church  
Gainesville, Florida*

Holy Trinity Church as seen by an artists sketch. The building was completed in 1907 and all the story contained within these pages is built around it. Holy Trinity was built by one pair of loving hands. An English Artisan, who left his native land to come to America, was hired as the "stone finishers" on the exterior of the Church. While the building was in process of completion services were being held in it. Our worker never failed to remove his overalls, clean up, and attend the services. When the service was over back to work he went.



The Rev. Francis Craighill, Rector 1904 to 1909. Vital force in the building of the Church.

The Rev. Francis Craighill and his family, pictured by the old Church. His son, Francis, Jr., nearest Mrs. Craighill, is now rector of Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.



# The Church Builds 1904-07

## Chapter Three

(Editor's Note: For this chapter of the history of our Church, the Herald staff wishes to thank Mrs. J. A. Spruill for allowing us to procure information from the manuscript of the History of Holy Trinity Church which was written by her brother, the late Mr. Ben P. Richards.)

In January of 1904, the Rev. Francis B. Craighill succeeded the Rev. John Gray as rector. Mr. Craighill immediately picked up the loose ends of the building project and aroused the enthusiasm of the congregation which numbered approximately 100. Looking ahead to the future, Mr. Craighill proposed to build "as fine a Church as possible without exceeding an indebtedness of \$5000." Consequently the original plans drawn by Dean Spencer, which included a small apse chancel, were discarded, and Mr. J. W. Hawkins, Jacksonville, was commissioned to prepare new plans. The existing foundations were used for the new Church, and it is very probable that the foundations of the original apse chancel are still in the ground beneath the present chancel.

Since the difference between the amount originally subscribed and the estimated cost of the Church was quite large, a pay-as-you-go plan was adopted. In September, 1905, the contract for the walls and roof were signed with the McCanel Composition Stone Co., Jacksonville, in the amount of \$2500. Already spent in the laying of the foundations was an additional \$2500.

The walls were to be built of McCanel stone, a composition stone made of cement, crushed granite, and coral rock. This stone was principally a veneer, the structural walls being of brick and mortar. The original wish was to use Suwannee sandstone as a veneer, but this was abandoned as being too costly. Miami coral rock and Indiana limestone were discarded for the same reason.

Construction of the walls began in February, 1905, and the cornerstone, a gift of Mrs. C. D. Shafer, was laid April 4, 1905, at 4:30 p.m. by Bishop Weed. Among the documents placed in the cornerstone was a copy of the service used during the laying of the cornerstone. A list of the vestry members, contributors to the building fund, and photographs of the exterior and interior of the old Church were also placed there.

Due to lack of funds it was almost a year before the roof was placed on the Church. When the time came to pay the contractor, it was found that Holy Trinity owed \$6500. The Rev. Mr. Craighill, in accordance with his maximum indebtedness policy of \$5000, personally launched a campaign, and secured by contributions the additional \$1500. Communicants contributed over and over to the building fund, and the ladies of the Church, through the Auxiliary Guild, raised an average of \$1000 a year during the construction period.

On April 4, 1907, the Rev. John Henry Brown, Fernandina, preached the first sermon in the new Church. During the summer months in 1907 the interior work was completed with the setting of stained glass windows, thirteen of which were presented as gifts. The total cost of the Church, including furnishings was \$25,000. At the time of its completion it was considered one of the best made churches in the state.





Mrs. Watson Porter, wife of Dr. Porter, devoted churchman, senior warden for many years, gave the "Porter Block" property.



The Rev. Bernard Campbell, Rector 1914 to 1920. Spiritual leader during World War I. Helped build up the Parish.



Pictured above is the Altar of Holy Trinity Church.



# On the Eve of the First World War

## Chapter Four

Part of the Holy Trinity story is told in names of its great leaders both in the clergy and the laity. Part of the Holy Trinity story is told in the work its members did outside the immediate confines of the new Church so recently completed.

Three events topped the news in 1909. First, W. W. Hampton became Chancellor of the Diocese of Florida. His work on behalf of the Episcopal Church both in this Parish and in the Diocese is a glorious page in Church history. Second, the Margaret Tebeau School became the Diocesan School for Girls. Third, The Rev. Mr. Craighill, who was beloved by all who knew him, left Holy Trinity to take charge of St. John's Church, Wytheville, Virginia.

Before leaving Mr. Craighill presented a resolution to the council proposing that the school conducted at Gainesville by Miss Tebeau be endorsed and declared the official school for girls in the Diocese, with the understanding that the action involved no financial liability on the part of the Diocese.

The resolution was adopted. The school ran under Miss Tebeau and Miss Alice Thomas until 1936, but following the death of Miss Tebeau and the subsequent ill health of Miss Thomas it was closed in October of that year.

Numerical growth was very erratic for more than a decade after Holy Trinity Church was completed. In January, 1910, the Rev. Thomas Houghton Burke succeeded Mr. Craighill as Rector.

On March 13, 1911, Dr. Watson Porter died. A pioneer resident of Gainesville, his service to the parish extended over a long period of years. He served as warden and as a vestryman. His last will and testament devised the Porter Block to his wife, Olivia Porter, for life—then Holy Trinity became the beneficiary of the income from the property, less \$60.00 per year for overseas missions.

Through the work of the Woman's Auxiliary Guild the oak pews were installed in 1911. St. Elizabeth's Guild presented the Choir frontals.

In April, 1911, Mr. Burke resigned, and was succeeded by the Rev. Raymond H. Edwards the following November. Mr. Edwards resigned in July, 1913, and was succeeded by the Rev. Bernard Campbell in January 1914.

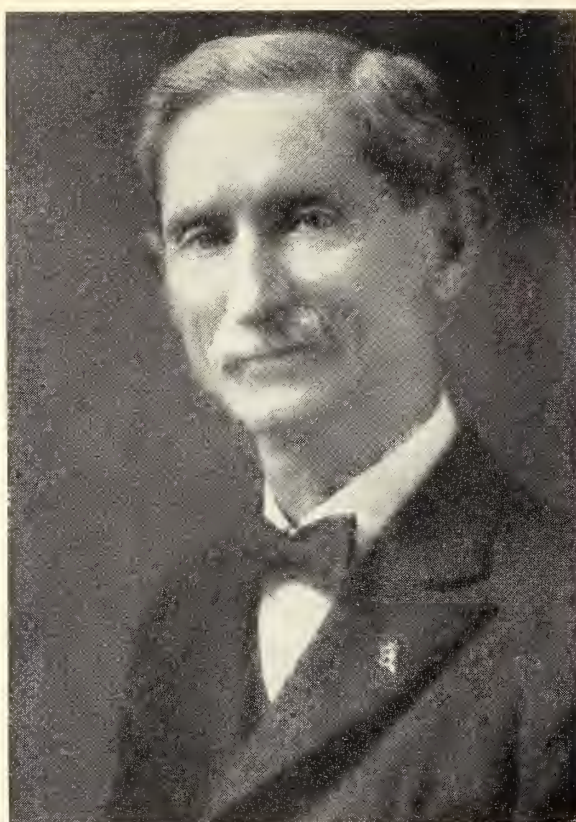
The Parish began gaining power in 1914, a condition that reflected itself in many improvements to the Church property and an intensive effort to discharge the Church debt.

Florida's University students in Gainesville presented a challenge to Church leaders at that time. In 1916 a University student named Reed organized the Brotherhood Club (inspired by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew). This served as a rallying point for students interested in brotherhood work. The Rev. Mr. Campbell worked with the University students. A committee began working toward the goal of a student center worthy of the attention of the Diocese. This committee consisted of G. W. Welch, C. R. Layton, W. W. Hampton, and J. R. Benton.





The Rev. Rufus Templeton. Dr. Templeton was rector from 1921 to 1926, during which time Parish House was built.



Colonel W. W. Hampton. Devoted Churchman, senior warden for many years, active in Parish and Diocese.



Colonel C. R. Layton. Devoted Churchman, senior and junior warden, and treasurer for many years.



Miss Maggie Tebeau. Loyal Churchwoman, teacher, giver of Tebeau Nursery School.



Mr. G. W. Welch. Active in Parish affairs for many years, junior warden. Pioneer for college work.



# **We Seek a Rector**

## **Chapter Five**

While the world rejoiced at the end of the long and bitter war that was "to make the world safe for democracy" Holy Trinity Church began a period of gradual growth and development. The road was not always smooth, and there were unfortunate pauses in the parish progress, but nonetheless by the time 1920 began Holy Trinity was well established, the debt on the church was almost paid off, and names that are still part of the Holy Trinity story begin to appear.

In 1920 the Rev. Bernard Campbell was still rector. At a Vestry meeting in the early part of that year a committee was appointed to begin working out plans for the construction and financing of a parish house. W. W. Hampton, Sr., Senior Warden and a leading figure in Church affairs during that era, headed the committee.

On November 15, 1920, the Rev. Mr. Campbell submitted his resignation as rector to the Vestry. The resignation was accepted but a tremendous hue and cry from some of the parishioners followed this action, and a petition disapproving of the Vestry's acceptance of his resignation was presented. This matter was ultimately straightened out to the satisfaction of all concerned, and Mr. Campbell left Gainesville later in November, 1920, to accept a call in Franklin, Tennessee.

On December 6 of the same year Holy Trinity formally accepted the Porter Block property. Meanwhile Archdeacon Holt acted as supply while an intensive hunt began for a new rector.

The problem of securing a new rector is vividly illustrated in the vestry minutes of that period. Man after man was called and for one year Holy Trinity had no rector. One call, issued to the Rev. L. A. Wye was accepted, then a letter from Mr. Wye was received requesting he be released. He was. The committee charged with the responsibility of procuring a rector met with Bishop Weed time after time, and the search carried them into Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, and Arizona.

The Rev. Rufus Templeton finally accepted the call and came to Holy Trinity on November 14, 1921.

As 1922 began the work on the parish house began to be intensified. On January 6 the Vestry passed a motion undertaking the raising of \$15,000 with which to build the present structure. The Church at that time was operating on a budget of less than \$5000.00 per year. At the parish meeting in January the newly elected Vestry consisted of the following men: W. W. Hampton continued as senior warden; C. R. Layton, continued as junior warden; and G. W. Welch, W. J. Lee, B. D. Hiers, E. A. Cooper, J. R. Benton, W. S. Graham, and E. F. Cannon, Sr., were members.

Less than six weeks after the parish house drive for \$15,000 began, the treasurer reported that \$6177.00 had been raised. At this time Dean Templeton appointed Mr. Hampton, Mr. Layton, Mr. Graves, and Mr. Maddox as the committee on parish house plans and specifications. The plans and specifications were approved by the Vestry April 12, 1922.



...nally opened, although it was  
...later Miss Eleanor Smith was  
...0, 1924. Miss Smith had been  
...appointment came on that date.  
...months of 1924 by the death of  
...en the spiritual leader of the  
...ank A. Juhan succeeded Bishop

...n the course of Holy Trinity's  
...pleton's rectorship a series of  
...ss of the Parish. Financially  
...at there was a noticeable lack  
...gation. Therefore at a special  
...24, at the home of the senior  
...fully requested to tender your  
...h." The resolution added, "no  
...he many reasons making this

...1, 1925.

...to the Methodist Church as a  
...switched from the Methodist

...y elected vestry contained the  
...ne at Holy Trinity: E. Finley  
...G. W. Welch.

...g the Rev. William G. Stoney,  
...lled to become Rector at Holy  
...on March 3, 1925, and arrived

...was sold, and a new one, known  
...w rectory was located at 1316  
...y purchased a Ford automobile  
...y Trinity.



The Rt. Rev. Frank A. Juhan, Bishop of the Diocese of Florida 1924- to present time.  
Vigorous leader, for more than a quarter century an inspirational figure.

## The Era of the

### Chapter

Talk of a memorial chapel to the  
Florida campus, and the purchase  
appears in the Vestry minutes of 1922  
by Col. W. W. Hampton, senior warden  
of the Diocese. Each Diocese was pledged  
\$25,000 already pledged by the Diocese

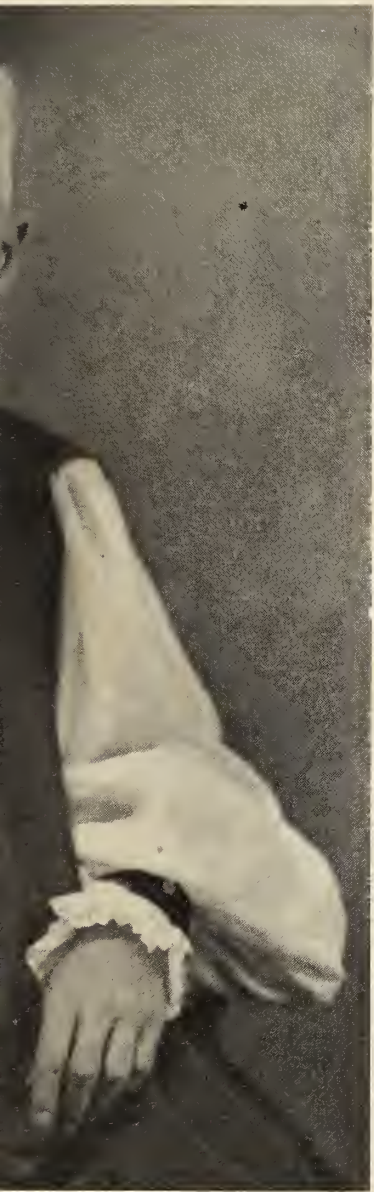
In the fall of 1927 the Church was  
raised. This period was one of great  
was reflected in the stepping up of  
B. C. Riley resigned as superintendent  
Glunt was appointed in her place.

Hampton spoke of the "wonderful progress"  
Stoney became rector, and the fact that  
being met. The parish is thriving and  
president of the "Men's Club" reported  
their primary project of supporting  
Florida students. Mr. Stoney reported  
Holy Trinity pledged \$7,500.00 to the

Later in 1928 Col. W. W. Hampton  
over his loss and gratitude to his family  
Church - and continuation of his \$1,500  
was sent to his family. Thus a tragedy  
Trinity scene.

At the Parish Meeting in 1929  
the progress being made on the Florida  
predicted for Holy Trinity. The Vestry  
would be used to pay off the debt of  
C. L. Crew reported that 14 women  
C. R. Layton was appointed senior  
junior warden. A memorial tablet for

Following the parish meeting in 1929  
was adopted, and Col. Layton and Juhan  
wardens, Bishop Juhan, the Vestry, and  
every Parish organization met to express  
had received from Tennessee. Unanimously  
tinue as rector. He expressed his confidence  
would be given "prayerful consideration"



of Florida 1924 - to present time.  
ury an inspirational figure.

## The Era of the Rev. Mr. Stoney

### Chapter Seven

Talk of a memorial chapel to the late Bishop Weed on the University of Florida campus, and the purchase of a lot on Colson street for \$5,500.00, appears in the Vestry minutes of 1927 about mid-year. The report was made by Col. W. W. Hampton, senior warden, and member of the executive council of the Diocese. Each Diocese was pledged to raise \$50,000, in addition to the \$25,000 already pledged by the Diocesan Auxiliary.

In the fall of 1927 the Church adopted a budget of \$11,093.04 which was raised. This period was one of great prosperity throughout the nation, and was reflected in the stepping up of Church activities. In early 1928 Mrs. B. C. Riley resigned as superintendent of the Sunday School and Mrs. J. D. Glunt was appointed in her place. At this time senior warden Col. W. W. Hampton spoke of the "wonderful progress made at Holy Trinity since Mr. Stoney became rector, and the fact that parish obligations and interest were being met. The parish is thriving and healthy." Mr. Ben P. Richards, then president of the "Men's Club" reported on his organization's progress, and their primary project of supporting "greater Weed Hall" for University of Florida students. Mr. Stoney reported 307 communicants at Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity pledged \$7,500.00 to the Weed Hall quota.

Later in 1928 Col. W. W. Hampton died. A resolution expressing sorrow over his loss and gratitude to his family for his bequest of \$5,000.00 to the Church—and continuation of his \$1,500.00 per year contribution for five years, was sent to his family. Thus a truly great figure passed from the Holy Trinity scene.

At the Parish Meeting in 1929 the Rev. Melville Johnston reported on the progress being made on the Florida campus. Another great year was predicted for Holy Trinity. The Vestry announced that the Hampton bequest would be used to pay off the debt on the Parish House and Rectory. Mrs. C. L. Crow reported that 47 women now comprised the Auxiliary. Colonel C. R. Layton was appointed senior warden and G. W. Welch was named junior warden. A memorial tablet for Col. Hampton was authorized.

Following the parish meeting in 1930 at which time a \$10,000 budget was adopted, and Col. Layton and Judge Heirs were named senior and junior wardens, Bishop Juhan, the Vestry, the Rector, and delegations representing every Parish organization met to express their views on the call Mr. Stoney had received from Tennessee. Unanimous desire was voiced that he continue as rector. He expressed his appreciation and promised his decision would be given "prayerful consideration."

On the 11th of March he announced he would remain at Holy Trinity.

Toward the end of 1930 talk of a new organ began, and a \$10,250 proposed budget for 1931 was adopted.

Fifty-two persons were present at the Parish meeting in 1931. They learned of a deficit of \$1,000.00 in the Church budget, saw Mr. W. A. Adams appointed superintendent of the Sunday School, and Col. Layton appointed senior warden and Mr. Fred Hampton, junior warden.

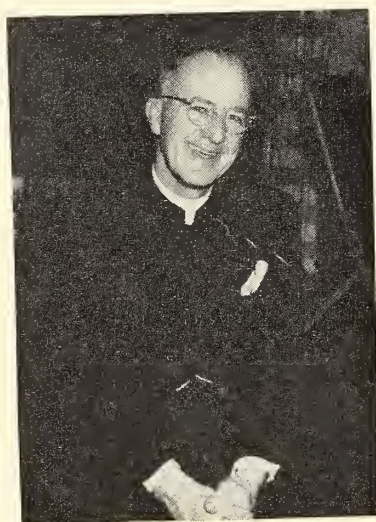




Miss Eleanor Smith, loyal Churchwoman, organist 1923 to present time.



The Rev. Melville Johnston, Chaplain, University of Florida 1926 to 1931, pioneer Chaplain.



The Rev. William Stoney, Rector, 1925-1935, a decade of spiritual refreshment.

Joe Vaughn, Sexton, 1927 to present time, a long period of devoted service.



Mr. R. C. Philips, loyal Churchman, Church School Superintendent 1933 to present time, junior warden, vestryman.





# The Depression Years

## Chapter Eight

By the summer of 1931 resignations seemed to be the order of the day in the Parish and the Diocese. The Rev. Melville Johnston resigned as Chaplain at the University and Bishop Juhan asked Mr. Stoney to take over the work at Weed Hall in addition to his other duties. At Holy Trinity Mr. J. F. Cowling resigned as treasurer and Mr. J. E. Graves was appointed in his place.

But the big news was the depression. The proposed \$9,200.00 budget had to be scaled down to \$7,800.00. Only 175 out of 436 members pledged. In 1932, with Col. Layton and Mr. Harry Brown, new junior warden, speaking for the vestry several drastic cuts were made in the budget. Church attendance fell off. The rectory was reported infested with termites, and the problem of Weed Hall, now closed and unoccupied, was discussed.

Forty-six parishioners attended the 1933 parish meeting. 365 communicants were reported. The Rector announced the appointment of Mr. R. C. Philips as Sunday School superintendent, of the Rev. Merritt Williams, new U. of F. chaplain, and again Col. Layton as senior warden, and Mr. Hampton as junior warden.

Only thirty-five were present as 1934 rolled around. The budget was cut to \$6,774.90, while the Church, staggering under debts and frequently unable to pay the Rector his salary, asked for extensions on the notes for the parish house and rectory.

On September 18, 1934, Mr. Stoney resigned to accept a call to Grace Church, Morgantown, North Carolina. Thus a great figure in our history moved on to another job. In October of the same year the Vestry called the Rev. Francis Wakefield, then rector at St. Marks Church, Palatka. Meanwhile Mr. Williams was acting as supply.

Mr. Wakefield stated the small rectory was an obstacle in his accepting the call. The Vestry then moved to sell or trade the rectory. So Mr. Wakefield came to Holy Trinity on January 1, 1935.

Seventy-five were on hand, including senior warden, Col. Layton, and junior warden, Mr. Hampton, at the new rector's first parish meeting. A budget of \$6,000.00 was adopted, Mrs. J. E. Graves was named choir directress, and plans for the first laymen's communion breakfasts during lent were made.

Gradually the economic situation brightened although the rise in the budget was slow. It was not until the proposed budget of 1938 was submitted that Holy Trinity was anywhere near the point they were in the prosperous late 1920's. By that time the Rev. Hamilton West was Chaplain at the University, Mrs. Francis Wakefield was choir directress, Mr. Fred J. Hampton was senior warden, Mr. H. E. Taylor was junior warden, and a new office in the Church, parish secretary and assistant treasurer, was created. The new position called for an annual stipend of \$300.00.

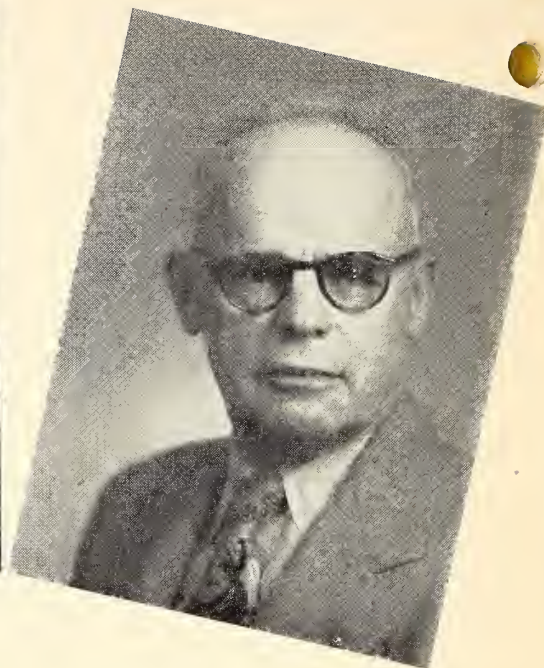
Among the clergymen who supplied at Holy Trinity while Mr. Wakefield took his annual vacation were Mr. West, and the Rev. Fred Yerkes, who had just been ordained.



The Rev. Merritt Williams, Chaplain, University of Florida, 1933 to 1935, Chaplain when Weed Hall was moved.



Mrs. B. C. Riley, devoted Churchwoman, president of the Diocesan Auxiliary 1944 to 1947.



Mr. William Jennings, loyal Churchman. Holy Trinity treasurer, 1943 to the present time.



The Rev. Francis Wakefield, Rector, 1935-1945, splendid leader during a decade of depression and war.



# The Era of the Rev. Mr. Wakefield

## Chapter Nine

As the first days of 1938 unfolded Holy Trinity was still in financial difficulty. Operating on a proposed budget of \$6,162.36, which was never realized in full, the Vestry found itself \$600.00 behind on the rector's salary before the end of the year.

H. E. Taylor was senior warden and H. C. Chandler, junior warden that year. 1938 was the year Bishop Juhan was in a serious accident that almost cost him his life. The Vestry presented him a resolution of thanksgiving in which humbly they thanked God for sparing their leader. Talk centered around the purchase of a new organ, the purchase of a new rectory, and the sale of the Porter Block property. A committee of three—B. F. Jordon, H. E. Taylor, and E. F. Cannon, Sr., went to work on the proposed Porter Block sale. The Rev. Mr. Wakefield spent some weeks in the hospital, and the laymen's league was averaging between 40-45 at each meeting.

In 1939 H. C. Chandler was appointed senior warden and Klein Graham was elected junior warden. Colonel Layton continued as treasurer. The proposed budget of \$8,500.00 was chopped to \$6,000.00. Col. Layton asked to be relieved as treasurer due to poor health. J. E. Graves succeeded him, and then in the same year Sollace M. Freeman succeeded Mr. Graves.

More budget cuts came in 1940, and the sale of the Porter Block came up again. It was decided that the asking price should be \$17,500.00. Some of the vestry felt that repairs should be made to the property and that it should be retained. An offer of \$6,000.00 was made for the two northeast units of the property and was rejected. Finally it was voted to repair the property at a cost of \$650.00. During 1940 Klein Graham was senior warden, and James Glunt was junior warden. These men continued in office through 1941. This critical year both in the world and at Holy Trinity found the Rev. Hamilton West leaving the Chapel of the Incarnation to begin his rectorship at St. Pauls Church in Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Glunt was appointed head of a committee to study the purchase of a new rectory. A Miss Bridges was hired to act as secretary to the Rector every day for half a day at the monthly stipend of \$15.00. That same year Judge B. D. Heirs died. He had served nine years as a vestryman and was junior warden. The Rev. Henry Loutitt, later to become Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of South Florida, supplied at Holy Trinity during Mr. Wakefield's absence. Dr. Glunt resigned as chairman of the rectory committee, and it was voted to repair the Union Street rectory.

As war raged throughout the world many of the young men and women in the Parish donned the uniforms of their country and left Gainesville. During the first year of the war (1942) H. C. Chandler was senior warden and R. C. Philips junior warden. The Church operated on a budget of less than \$7,000.00, and talk of a new rectory continued—although no action was taken. That same year the Rev. James Sterling took over as Chaplain at the University, and Colonel C. R. Layton passed on. His great record of loyal and devoted service was outlined in the minutes of the Vestry at that time. Forty years a parishioner; fourteen years of the Vestry, and during those fourteen years he served as senior and junior warden and as treasurer. Thus another great name passed from the Parish scene.





The Rector's residence. Located in the lovely northwest section of Gainesville, the present rectory was purchased in 1942.



Senator W. A. Shands, devoted Churchman, senior warden, vestryman, gave new organ to Church in 1950.



Colonel R. S. Hopkins, devoted Churchman, senior warden, vestryman, gave lake property and rectory property to Church.



# The War Years

## Chapter Ten

More and more men in uniform began to appear at Holy Trinity during the latter part of 1942 and early 1943. It was here that the women of the Church made a brilliant contribution to the war effort. Soldiers stationed at Camp Blanding were entertained at the Parish House and in the homes of the Parishioners. The Woman's Auxiliary cooperated wholeheartedly in various civic projects in connection with the war. Red Cross work, service-center entertainment, charity work, and the like filled days of nervous tension and keen anxiety. The blood of many boys who only a few years before had been YPSL age was being shed on the beaches of Normandy and on the fever-filled Pacific Islands.

Besides the history making chapter on the war still another page in the Holy Trinity Story was written in 1943. In mid-February the Vestry voted to sell the Union Street rectory for \$6,000.00 and to purchase the Broome residence on Hilldale Road for \$9,000.00. The difference in the sale and purchase price was to be financed. The Vestry further moved that the matter should be brought before the Parish as a whole as a difference of opinion regarding the action existed.

A special meeting was held in March of 1943. After a full, free, and lively discussion—in the absence of the Rector who was asked to withdraw—a vote was held. Thirty-nine voted in favor of the purchase, nine voted against, and nine did not vote. Thus the new rectory became a reality.

That same year William Jennings became Church treasurer following Mr. Freeman's resignation. The budget for the year was oversubscribed, and a proposed budget of \$9,286.50 was set for the next year.

Money was more plentiful in 1944 and once more the Church began to move forward. Klein Graham was senior warden in 1944 and W. T. Laird was junior warden. The Rector's salary was raised to \$3,600.00 per year. Senator and Mrs. W. A. Shands offered Holy Trinity an organ as a gift when a satisfactory instrument became available. Senator Shands deposited \$1,500.00 into the "organ fund" at that time. A drive was begun in the summer of 1944 to rehabilitate the Church at a cost of \$5,000.00.

1945 found Mr. Graham continuing as senior warden and Colonel R. L. Joyner elected junior warden. One hundred twenty were on hand for the annual parish meeting. Colonel R. S. Hopkins purchased the lot next to the rectory and presented it to the Church.

In July of 1945 the Rev. Mr. Wakefield told the Vestry of a call he received from a Church in Mobile, Alabama. He was undecided about accepting. In August he submitted his resignation despite a resolution from the vestry urging that he stay. During his decade of service Mr. Wakefield had contributed in many ways not only to the success and growth of the Parish but to the community as well.

Bishop Juhan met with the Vestry in September to discuss getting a new rector. Meanwhile the Rev. Sidney W. Creasey supplied. A committee went to work immediately, and once again they turned toward St. Marks Church in Palatka, as they had ten years before.

In October the committee offered the name of the Rev. George M. Alexander to the Vestry. Mr. Alexander was called. He accepted, and began his work in this Parish in December 1945.



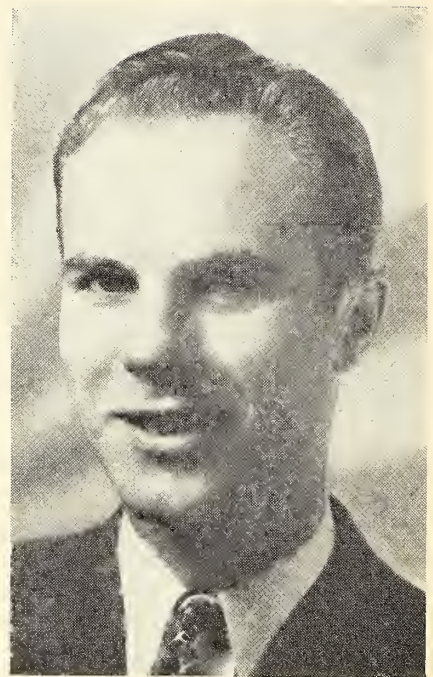
The Rev. George Alexander, Rector, 1945-1949, devoted spiritual leader during post war era.



Mrs. W. J. Matherly, devoted Churchwoman, president of the Diocesan Auxiliary, 1949 to date.



Mrs. Wallace Phillips, first full-time parish secretary, 1947 to 1949.



Mr. Frank Pisani, loyal Churchman, Editor, Holy Trinity Herald, 1948 to the present time, vestryman.



# The Rev. George Alexander's Years

## Chapter Eleven

As the post-war period began Holy Trinity Parish abounded with new faces. The Rector was new, and many new faces began to appear in the congregation. Servicemen put aside their uniforms and the Parish began to take on a youthful appearance. Record enrollments at the University of Florida had an effect on Holy Trinity through both students and faculty.

At the Chapel of the Incarnation the Rev. Morgan Ashley began his work with the Episcopal students on the campus, while at Holy Trinity the annual parish meeting was well attended with Mr. Alexander beginning his first year as spiritual leader.

Dean Walter J. Matherly was appointed senior warden in 1946 and R. C. Philips was elected junior warden. William Jennings continued as Church treasurer. A proposed budget of \$13,540 was adopted, and the money was raised. Talk began that year of hiring a secretary-director of religious education. The Woman's Auxiliary and Laymen's League grew rapidly, as did the YPSL and Junior Altar Guild. Devoted Churchmen and Churchwomen lent their efforts to the amazing growth and expansion of this era.

In 1947 the budget jumped to a record \$18,640. Colonel S. R. Hopkins was appointed senior warden and R. C. Philips re-elected junior warden. Sunday evening prayer service was started again and Miss Julie Pinkerton began her work in the newly created parish secretary-religious education post. The parish continued to grow in communicant status and the Church School under Mr. Philips grew so rapidly that the space problem became a matter of serious consequence.

1948 was to prove a year crammed full of momentous activity. Colonel Hopkins and Mr. Philips continued as senior and junior wardens. From the headquarters of the Diocese of Florida in Jacksonville came news of a step that carried with it tremendous significance. The Diocese was ready for a Bishop Coadjutor. Bishop Juhan, the Clergy, and Lay representatives from the Diocese met and elected through the democratic processes of the Episcopal Church The Rev. E. Hamilton West of St. Pauls Church, Augusta, Georgia. No stranger to Florida, Bishop West was at one time the Chaplain at the University. Bishop West was consecrated in the fall of 1948.

Meanwhile at Holy Trinity the Young Married Group was formed and as their project the Holy Trinity Herald, parish newsmagazine, was started. Through the generosity of Col. and Mrs. Hopkins the Church was given a piece of lake front property on East Lake. A contract for \$3,643.00 was let for a new roof on the Church. A new oil burning furnace was authorized at a cost of \$600.00. The new roof and furnace were installed the same year.

On December 20, 1948, Holy Trinity was stunned by the announcement of the resignation of the Rev. George Alexander three years after he began his rectorship. Mr. Alexander told the Vestry of his acceptance of a call to Trinity Church, Columbia, South Carolina. Under his able and inspiring direction Holy Trinity Church was making great strides forward in every respect.

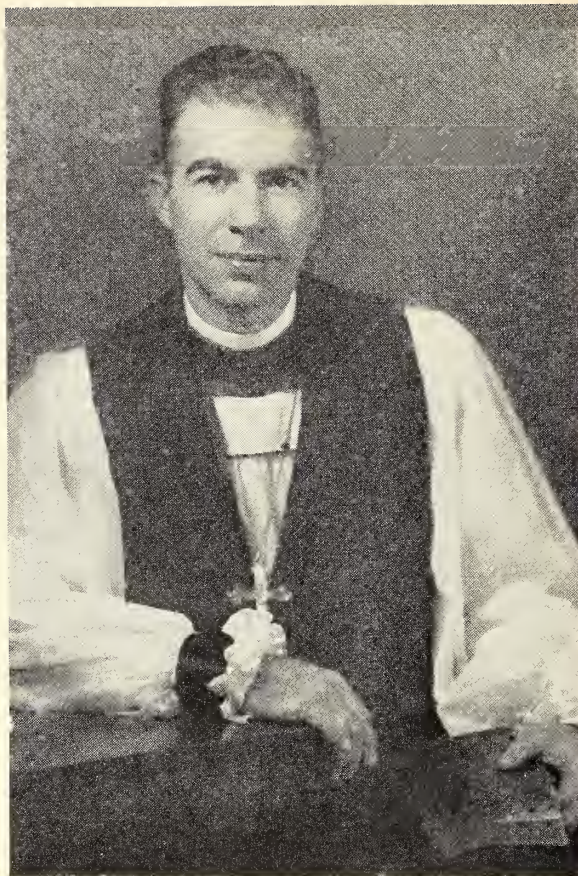
The Vestry reluctantly accepted Mr. Alexander's resignation and appointed a committee to begin work on securing a new Rector. The names of the Rev. E. Ruffin Jones, Sr., and the Rev. William Way were suggested as possibilities for supply while the search was in progress.

And this was the story at Holy Trinity as 1949 rolled around.





The Rev. Roscoe Hauser, Jr., Rector, 1949 to the present time, an exemplary spiritual leader who is getting things done.



The Rt. Rev. Hamilton West, Bishop Coadjutor, Diocese of Florida, 1948 to the present time, loyal and devoted leader, Chaplain, University of Florida, 1935 to 1940.



Mrs. Edwin Smith, devoted Churchwoman, parish secretary, 1949 to the present time.



Mr. Joel Cocks, loyal Churchman, Managing Editor, Holy Trinity Herald, 1948 to the present time.



Mrs. Purdon Murphy, loyal Churchwoman, Business Manager, Holy Trinity Herald, 1948 to 1950.



# Mid-Century Progress

## Chapter Twelve

At the annual Parish meeting in January of 1949 Mr. Alexander spoke to his parishioners "at a meeting of this type for the last time." Holy Trinity faced a vital year in its development and growth without a leader.

Parish faith rested with Senior Warden Senator W. A. Shands, for years a devoted Churchman and highly respected figure. V. M. Humphrey held the post of junior warden, and Mr. Jennings began another year as treasurer. The proposed budget of \$21,207 was not quite met and had to be pared down a trifle. In February the Rev. E. Ruffin Jones, Sr., began his work as supply. In the early months of '49 Mrs. W. J. Matherly was elected president of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Diocese, the second Holy Trinityite to hold this post. Mrs. B. C. Riley held the position some years before. Dr. David Stryker was appointed choir director and the Holy Trinity story continued.

At a meeting of the Young Married Group in March the announcement was made regarding Holy Trinity's new rector. The man chosen was the Rev. Roscoe C. Hauser, Jr. Mr. Hauser, a Texan by birth, was at the time of his call the rector of St. Pauls Church, Greenville, North Carolina. Mr. Hauser arrived in May to begin his work at Holy Trinity.

In June, Julie Pinkerton Phillips resigned as parish-secretary and was replaced by Mrs. Irene Hanford. Julie accompanied her husband Wallace Phillips to Sewanee where he began his study for the ministry. In the fall of 1949 the Rev. Morgan Ashley left the Chapel at the University and began his work in Crescent City. The Rev. James B. Orth, from the University of Maryland, took over at the University. Meanwhile the first woman worker in the history of the Diocese was sent to the University of Florida. This young lady was Miss Anne Hunter. Shortly after Chaplain Orth's arrival work was begun on Canterbury House, the new student center adjoining the Chapel.

In the fall of 1949 Bishop Juhan celebrated his 25th anniversary as the leader of the Diocese of Florida. At Holy Trinity hurricane winds destroyed the stained-glass window near the entrance to the Church. Meanwhile the overcrowded condition of the Church School became major problem number one. At the same time a special committee went to work to study types of organs for the Church. The window, organ, church school situation, and a proposed budget of \$24,767 occupied the Parish's attention as 1950—the midcentury year—began.

Through the work of the Woman's Auxiliary, the efforts of the Vestry, and the generosity of the Shands family, three of the Parish "musts" were realities by mid-1950. Through all these steps forward the guiding hand of Mr. Hauser was apparent. Holy Trinity's rector soon earned the reputation of "a doer."

All was not accomplished since Holy Trinity failed to meet its record budget, and an item calling for an assistant (sorely needed in a growing Parish) had to be dropped.

Irene Hanford resigned in late 1949 and in 1950 Mrs. Jean Smith took over the duties of parish secretary.

In the spring of the mid-century year a new organ was ordered, and delivery was expected before the year ended. The Woman's Auxiliary raised \$2,000.00, the cost of the new window, and it was installed in July. Finally the house and property adjoining the Church to the north was purchased from Mrs. J. B. Dell, Jr., thus relieving the Sunday School space problem.

Thus the Holy Trinity Story continues. New faces, new names, new problems—but, as the past is great, the future, with all uncertainties taken into account, is assured. Christian men and women with a common purpose have made, and will make, the Holy Trinity story a great one.





Pictured above is a view of the Chapel of the Incarnation, left, and Canterbury House, new Student Center, right, on the campus of the University of Florida. Facilities pictured are for Episcopal men and women attending the University.

College work on the campus of the University of Florida, once a dream in the hearts and minds of our Bishops and lay people, is now a reality—and while not an integral part of the Holy Trinity Story, it is closely related.

Briefly the story goes something like this:

In 1926 the Rev. Melville E. Johnston became Chaplain to some 60 Episcopal students in a frame boarding house, located at the site of the present Chapel. It was known as Weed Hall.

Seven years later, under the leadership of the Rev. Merritt Williams, Weed Hall was moved from the old location to the place it now occupies. It was remodded and became the home for the Chaplain and his family as well as the students.

The vacant lot on University Avenue became the site of the Chapel of the Incarnation in 1939 during the Chap-



The Rev. James B. Orth

laincy of the Rev. Hamilton West, now Bishop Coadjutor in this Diocese. It was completed and consecrated in 1939.

In 1941 the Rev. James Stirling became Chaplain and guided the work among Episcopal students through the war years. In the post-war years the Rev. Morgan Ashley was Chaplain. During this time plans were laid for a new Student Center to be located adjacent to the Chapel.

Canterbury House, the name of the new center selected by the students, was started and completed during the period of the present Chaplain, the Rev. James B. Orth. Also in this period Miss Anne Hunter, first Woman College Worker in the Diocese, became a part of the Chapel story. Today there are more than 800 Episcopal students to be cared for . . . a gain of 740 during something less than a quarter-century.









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